

preliminary analysis circuit or routine 270 and forwarded to the preliminary analysis circuit or routine 270. For example, the controller 210 may process the collected data by discretely sampling the analog data received from the one or more sensors 250 into qualitative values or by digitizing such analog data using the analog-to-digital converter 260. Alternatively, the controller 210 may process the collected data by translating device signals into discrete event sequences, as described in U.S.

Patent Application No. 09/522,082, now U.S. Patent No. 6,519,558
Provisional Application No. 60/154,016, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, that can be recognized by the preliminary analysis circuit or routine 270.

While some data processing may be accomplished by the remote device 200, the data is further processed by the data processor 300 of the metric and status presentation system 100. Fig. 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the data processor 300 shown in Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 3, in various exemplary embodiments, the data processor 300 includes one or more Web objects 310 that collect data from the remote device 200. The Web objects 310 collect the data using a standard network management or Web-protocol 320, such as SNMP, HTML over HTTP or extended mark-up language (XML) over HTTP, from the distributed network 101. The data processor 300 also includes a network input/output interface 330 usable to receive and/or send data over the distributed network 101. The elements of the data processor 300 may be interconnected by a link 301. The link 301 can be one or more wired or wireless links or any other known or later-developed element or elements that are capable of supplying electronic data to and from the connected elements 310-330.

The network input/output interface 330 may be any known or later-developed mechanism, such as a server or a client, that is capable of accessing data about the remote device 200 posted over the distributed network 101 and/or sending data over the distributed network 101. The operation of the Web objects 310 is explained in more detail below.

Fig. 4 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the Web-object presentation creator 400 shown in Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 4, in various exemplary embodiments, the Web-object presentation creator 400 includes, or at least accesses, one or more Web objects 410 to be presented. The Web-object presentation creator 400 includes one or more templates 420 that can be populated by one or more of the Web objects 410. The templates 420 may be used by a Web server 440 to create a presentation of